

25th Anniversary The Onyx Informer

Founded in 1972 Northeastern's Newspaper Designed for People of Color June 1998

Brown vs. Board; Black vs. NU: Dialog on Race

Linda Betharte

Students came prepared to the "Open Dialogue on Race" with their posters and their grievances.

The Black Student Leadership Council, a recently formed student group, led a number of Black students to the meeting, holding up posters that read: "Brown vs. Board of Education", "Black vs. NU," "If you're Black, get back, if you're Brown, stick around. If you're White, you're all right," and "Black=Suspicion, Suspicion=Guilt."

The Council was formed in early May to address what they are calling a racist decision made by the Judicial Affairs office against a Black female student, Rosa Spiller. The Council claims she was unfairly penalized because of her race. "When I came to Boston, Northeastern told me this is a school of diversity. I don't feel that way any longer," said Spiller, during the Dialogue.

Kanasha Herbert, a



Impassioned students make their presence known at the "Dialogue On Race" photo credit Eric Esteves

middler at Northeastern University called the office of Judicial Affairs, "the Office of perceptive Affairs." According to Herbert, she was kicked out of her residence hall because her roommate suspected she was practicing voodoo, a religion commonly associated with witchcraft. Herbert reiterates what one of the administrators involved in the case told her, "You are from the Carib-

bean. What do you expect people to think of you?"

President Richard Freeland said he was very distressed to hear of the unfair treatment in the Judicial Affairs office and of the other incidences of racism reported by students that attended the meeting.

Other students talked about being slighted by the co-op department, professors who underestimated their abilities because

of the color of their skin, disrespectful treatment by Northeastern police officers, and the lack of financial support for the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute, a center that began in the late 1960's to address issues that Black students faced on Northeastern's campus.

When asked why the African-American Institute has not been renovated to allow access to the dis-

abled, specifically the absence of an elevator, President Freeland said he was unaware of the funds promised by the university to the institute.

Nicole Black, president of the Northeastern Black Student Association, said, "I refuse to love a school that does not love all races." Phil Kasieki, a junior, followed with this to say about diversity, "this is a diverse campus that is not unified, and students feel complacent about it. Students have to be more involved. We need more white students to look at this issue."

Although there were several white faculty and staff members seated at the meeting, few of them spoke. "There are program's but not enough," stated Kate Pendergast of Human Resources, one of the few who spoke, in reply to a student's question about training programs for faculty and police officers. The majority of the students who did attend the meeting were students of color, and some of the white

Lift Every Voice

DeeJay Apostole

Sunday, April 5, the Ford Hall Forum presented "Lift Every Voice — Turning a Civil Rights Setback Into a New Vision of Social Change" with Lani Guinier.

Guinier was the Assistant Attorney General on Civil Rights and was dismissed from her position in 1993. She was at Northeastern University to speak about

her book and the hardest challenges that she has ever faced.

As soon as she was dismissed from her position, she was silenced by President Bill Clinton. Her views were distorted by the media and she was labeled a "quota queen" and "anti-democratic". Her greatest anxiety as a child was of public humiliation and her worst nightmare had come true as she could not defend herself from public attack. She was not told why, but was reassured by President

Clinton that it was the not hers, but the fault of the government. He then turned around and slandered her on television.

Guinier's goal is for everyone to connect their own disappointment or experience to hers so to learn how to turn a stumbling block into a stepping stone. She wanted to share the joy and satisfaction of lifting your voice in harmony with others for a means of survival and liberation. Change does not occur in Washington, D.C. Change does not occur "unless people speak eloquently with their feet", she said.

Lani Guinier's mes-

sage was not about liberating herself, but about rethinking Democracy and the United State's partial Democracy to become a genuine Democracy. "The American people might learn about Democracy by studying South Africa now", she said. South Africa has cumulative voting instead of the majority take all voting the US has. South Africa does not have districts. The political parties are built around ideas and not individuals as in the US. This way, everyone has someone that they voted for the represent them in office. If a

see Guinier, page 6

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extra - extra

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Editorial

It's been real. We joined together to put this paper together and make it work because no one else would. For two years we struggled, but we managed to keep The Onyx Informer alive. We have gone through technical difficulties to scheduling problems to lack of participation. We call on everyone now to think. Take a good look at this issue. There is a strong focus on race. This is an important topic as it affects us all. It is the 10th Anniversary of the Latin American Student Organization and the 25th Anniversary of The Onyx Informer. Both of these came out of what we now call the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute which is currently celebrating 30 years. We are celebrating thirty years of a 'minority' voice, of struggle. We have come a long way, but our journey is far from complete. In times like this, our voice is needed more than ever. We have had the "Dialogue on Race" which has shown that despite our progress, we are still far from achieving the dream. We are forced to debate the 'race issue', while injustices are happening all around us. We commend the Black Student Leader Coalition for bringing some of these issues to light at the dialogue, but we still need to address others. We need to pay attention to the cutting back of our female professors of color from a University that preaches a "commitment to diversity" religiously.

Why is it that when a female professor of color comes up for tenure, she is mysteriously denied? (cases in point - Prof.s Frieberg and Asai). We need to challenge the University on this. Student activism is as simple as writing a letter of support and questioning those in charge of the tenure process. We are currently challenging Judicial Affairs and Public Safety on the premise of issues that we feel are unjust. We need to continue the process of questioning similar situations and events as they arise and allow our mettle to grow stronger as we strive to thwart these challenges. Activism is not dead, it was just hibernating and we are seeing it awakening and realizing it's importance. As the old saying goes, "there can be no progress without struggle"

Sincerely,

Cad

PLYYY - PEACE Love & YinYang (Balance)

DeeJay

know history, know self; no history, no self

LETTERS

A Step in the Right Direction

I have so much that I would like to say. Hopefully, in the near future, an opportunity will be provided for other students and I to express what each and every one of us want. Monday, May 18, 1998, in the Curry Student Center, walls were torn down. Not the walls that put together the building, but the racial barriers that disallow for the improvement of race relations here at Northeastern, and all over the world. For the first time in many of our lives, we witnessed and took part in a massive inter racial communication. It was made clear to many of us that night that there are race relation problems, and that we are concerned about these problems. Now, it is our responsibility to do something about it.

The forum that was held in the Student Center was called, "A Dialogue on Race: An Informal community discussion for Students, Faculty and Staff." As suggested by the title of this editorial, it was a tremendous step in the right direction. The room was filled with concerned students who were ready to face one of our most frightening social problems, race relations. Although introduced by the Unlearn Workshop as a program to discuss issues such as stereotypes, the night took a much different path. In the back of the room congregated large organized groups of students of color. These students were filled with emotions, and wanted and demanded that their voices be heard. The organized groups were successful, in that their voices were heard, and it was important that this was accomplished. Unfortunately, aside from the organized groups and what seemed to be their supporters, other students of color, no other students were there to hear the voices that were speaking out. Northeastern's student body was not well represented at that forum. Absent from the event were the fraternities and sororities, the student athletes, and even the Student Government Association. White students were nowhere to be found. The first white student to speak, one of only a handful, shared her pain that came from an experience she felt represented a problem in race relations. As the tears developed in her eyes, she fought to keep her voice clear and strong. Sadly, although her voice might have been heard, how she felt was over shadowed by the powerful voices of the organized students groups who followed the woman's story. Her point went unnoticed by many. The night's main theme continued to consist of students of color sharing accounts believed to be examples of discrimination demonstrated

by Northeastern University. These voices were heard, and it was clear to all that we do have a problem.

It was decided by many of us who were there that we must do something to fix this problem. Before we can take any more steps, we need to better define the problem and constitute a plan of attack. In order to accomplish this we need to further communicate. Black, white, red, yellow, blue, etc. We need to come together and attack our concerns as one. Northeastern is a world where we are all dedicated to improving ourselves, we are not all filled with hate. And although some of the accounts shared with us were, many of them were not circumstances of racism. They were, instead, circumstances of the gaps that lie between the different colors of our students. Communication will be what bridges these gaps so that we can start to make a change. We are all afraid of what we do not understand. With a lack of communication, our understanding of one another is limited. That lack of understanding might turn into fear and often, when we are in fear of something, we are unable to think or behave rationally.

Hate is not our problem. Our problem lies in the misconceptions, the prejudices, and the ignorance that we have of one another.

If we can allow for the people of minority groups to receive the support of the majority group, then those minority groups will no longer be of the minority. Along with the students of color who organized themselves to fight the injustices, there needs to be the presidents of white fraternities, the white captains of our athletic teams, and other white students supporting our brothers and sisters of color. Those of us, who are white, must start attending events sponsored by organizations of color. Those of us of color need to attend events sponsored by predominantly white organizations.

The injustices that are done onto minority groups are not only harmful to those minority groups, but are detrimental to all of mankind. As students we need to empower ourselves. In order to face some of the issues that were brought up on Monday night, the student body needs to pull together as one. We each need to challenge ourselves. It is not an easy task, but it is time to make a change. To borrow from a great singer of our time, "I'm starting with the man in the mirror." I suggest we all do the same.

Steve Buonaugurio

Education/Sociology - Middler

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LETTERS

Reflections on the "Dialogue On Race"

I was sitting at home, half-watching the news, when a report regarding college students hit the airwaves. The report highlighted campuses throughout the nation, that recently had incidents of student unrest. The public abuse of alcohol by students and their ensuing behavior were the common threads reported in each case. I shook my head as I listened to the accounts and began to reflect on my experiences as a student here at Northeastern. Student activism used to mean marching for and demanding quality-of-life and experience-related needs, such as financial aid, residing in a diverse community, curriculum development, and support/counseling-related services. I reflected on the leadership of Mr. Gregory Ricks, former Dean of the African-American Institute, and Dr. Ramona Edelin, chairperson of the African-American Studies Department, and other mentors who assisted in shaping the development of my peers and I as student leaders, thinkers, and activists during the 1970's. We were constantly educated about the "higher education system" and issues related to our struggle. As a result, when any institutional value linked to our ability to gain access to our collective goal - earning a degree - was violated, we were able to proceed with a level of knowledge and action that gained the respect of the entire University Community. This knowledge base allowed for a proactive and active approach to our issues, as well as for lively discussions among students during planning meetings, held in the "Tute," or when just hanging out in Krentzman Quadrangle under "The Tree."

This type of campus activism can energize and unite a community of faculty, staff, and students if approached strategically. It could also tear apart a community if it is poorly planned, selfish in its mission, or is disrespectful. I wondered, "Where had that level of organization, concern, and Black student activism gone?" then, on May 18, 1998, I turned to my left at the "Dialogue on Race" and thought I was witnessing a mirage. Several students were standing in the back of the event area with what appeared to be hand made signs and banners in their hands. I looked at the event's program to see what role could they have possibly been playing. "Are they holding flash cards for the speakers?" "Is it art work?" "Are they part of the dramatic presentation, the 'Unlearn Workshop?'" So, the event started, the placards were then turned around, and the students, eager to speak, formed a line behind the microphone. After getting over the initial shock, a big smile came across my face. The students had organized to raise important issues in front of the University Community. The "Dialogue" turned into a good-ol' fashioned, issue-related PROTEST. The students were respectful, organized, and very passionate about the issues that were raised. I even reflected on my own experiences as a student and wanted to join in the protest for "ol' times sake." Then, reality set in. This is 1998, not 1973. It is now my responsibility to listen, to sort out the issues, and to facilitate and assist in developing outcomes that will benefit the common good. To those students, I say, "Caring is infectious. Thank you for energizing our community." By the way, I am still smiling.

Dean Keith Motley

The Onyx Informer Wants You!!!

Are you Passionate about issues affecting communities of color?
Do you want to give a journalist's voice to that passion?
You can do it through The Onyx Informer, a student newspaper at NU.

Current Openings:

Editors, writers, reporters, photographers, advertising manager.

To join, please bring your resume to Bob Sprague, media advisor, in Room 428, Student Center. Call 373-4379 or e-mail him at rsprague@lynx.dac.neu.edu

Guinier, cont. page 1.

party gets 62.5 percent of the votes there, they get 63 percent of the seats. If a party gets 62.5 percent of the votes in the US, they get 100 percent of the seats.

This can create problems as Guinier pointed out. In Phillips County, Arkansas, voting is polarized between Whites and Blacks. Blacks always win the election. Since they don't win by 51 percent, there is a run off. This second election is set up so that it is nearly impossible for Blacks to vote and a White always wins. She says that the problem is who draws the district lines. Every ten years, congress redraws the lines from behind closed doors. They draw the lines so to include enough votes to get them re-elected.

Guinier compared voting to shopping in a grocery store. In the US, a citizen is told what is to buy from and only given two brands. This would never happen with the economic market place, yet in the United States, it happens in the 'political market place'.

This other system was once used in New York City where people didn't vote for the mayors, but the parties. If the party did not like what the candidate was doing, they replaced him. Therefore, discussions were around the ideas of the party and not the politician's character.

Lani Guinier addressed race "to use it as a window onto class, gender, and fundamental fairness not individual bigotry". She stated that to enter the discussion, one does not need to declare his or her bias thoughts and that the outcome may not be what is expected.

She then shared a story about a court case heard in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals where affirmative action was abolished in Texas. As a result, less Chicanos and Blacks were being admitted to the University of Texas. All taxpayers are eligible to send their children to the University, but they used achievement tests as the gatekeeper to keep minorities and working class whites out. They proved that the higher the income, the higher the test scores and that it did not predict performance. Only 17 percent of SAT scores predicted the first year college grades.

To show lack of consistency, Guinier stated that in 1976, 300,000 recruits failed the Army Aptitude Test and were admitted and those who failed had the same enlistment advancement rate as others. Also 7 percent more Blacks, 21 percent more Mexicans, and 14 percent more Whites were admitted to the University of Texas through Affirmative Action.

Lani Guinier's mission is to discuss racism not racism and use race as a "a window onto class, gender, and fundamental fairness". She encourages everyone to find their voice and seeks to help all lift their voice from "tragedy into triumph" and learn as she did, "to turn a stumbling rock into a stepping stone."

PEACE

"In final analysis, national struggle is a matter of class struggle. Among the whites in the United States it is only the reactionary ruling circles who oppress the black people. They can in no way represent the workers, farmers, revolutionary intellectuals and other enlightened persons who comprise the overwhelming majority of the white people"

-Chairman Mao Tse-tung
August 8, 1963

EXPRESSIONS

Nightmares

The indignity came as
na surprise.
Others have never seen those
things which have fallen upon
my eyes.
In the ghetto, they may say,
"It's all good."
Yet, we still strive for reasoning
for this life in the 'hood.

Fresh into school, separated
from my people
Alone in a realm of thought,
my only equal
The task at hand - to control
my destiny
Fully aware that I am the
head of the family
Insufficient funds - an every-
day circumstance
But who could of known that
night could have been my last.

It was mere luck that I had just
finished playing ball.
Far moments later...another
brother would fall.
Taking my sisters out to eat;;
that's what big brothers do.
But Herbert was one too, and
him I never really knew.
You see, I was cool with his
family and they were
cool with me.
However, we hardly crossed
paths in his shortened history.

That starry night, he was an
my black, hanging with his
bays.
An argument arose, a gun
drawn, and this was no toy.
I can see his outline stretched
out on the cold cement.
His father screamed.
Awaking in a steamy sweat,
was it all just a dream?

My neighborhood, now a
ghost town - drastic change
from the night before.
And the soldiers for unity
march on, chanting,
"No more!"

Eric Esteves

It's funny to me...

It's funny to me how ironic life is
Each day is filled with something new,
something different,
something unpredictable
It's ironic to me to realize that at times I
am my own worst enemy
making things more difficult than they
really are and putting restrictions
upon myself
I'm learning that I have to know myself
before anyone else can begin
to know the real me
I see that in life we all wear masks,
each of us presenting what we think others
want to see while the real you is slowly
dying, trying to break free
I realize that love is something unexplain-
able and at times very painful
but I also believe that after the hard times
there will always be a ray of light
waiting for you and that if all this love
brings you is pain then it isn't genuine
I realize that no matter how hard you
try you can't make someone want you or
love you the way you do to them
Giving it up isn't a one way ticket to
someone's heart and that kisses aren't
contracts
Now I see that time is the only
healer of all wounds
Things all happen for a reason
and we may not understand
why right away but in time everything
comes into place
Life right now seems like an eternity
but if we stopped to see how short it really
is we would appreciate it so much more
I'm beginning to live each day as it was my
last I am doing things for me
I stop holding myself back I am speaking
my mind ... who knows when I'll get
another chance.

JAKE's

Cad Downing

His day begins when most
people sleep
Structured and carefully
planned routines
To keep the buying the
buying and selling
Of his product discreet on
the
Dark landscape of the city's
Back alley's and streets
Despite the daily hazards of
his
Employment
The most serious being his
death
He vows with every breath
That he will retire from the
"business"
Once he reaches a certain
level of riches
Because he's in it for the
Benjamins
Not the enjoyment

Gone are the days of hus-
tling
On the street corners and
the risk
Of being harassed by com-
petition
Or Jake's (Jive Ass Killer
Enforcers)
He now has workers fol-
lowing
All his orders with the
utmost respect
His operation now a tiger
ship than
UPS all aspects handled
with strict
balances and checks

Despite the fame and ill
gotten wealth
He's careful to not think
he's big-time
Trusting no one but himself
Remembering the 3 rules
that got
Him to this plateau of suc-
cess:

A capitalist migraine, ruth-
less business
Sense, and above all else
keeping his
Practices secret with stealth
Yet even with all his careful
planning
And the foundation he's laid
In order to stay paid
His movements have caught
the attention
Of the JAKE's
His every move is now
being documented
With police surveillance
following every
Move that he makes
The foundation begins to
crumble
Beneath his feet
With the JAKE's waiting to
catch
Him when he falls
Waiting patiently for a key
Mistake...

He senses the impending
pressure brought
On by the officers of law
enforcement
Although he does not reach
level of riches
He envisioned he decides
his freedom
Is more important
Moving silently like thief
through night
Stuffing his pockets full of
cash
Thinking of all the dirty
deeds in his lifetime
While desperately fighting
the ghosts of his past
One by one he fills his gun
clip with
Hollow tip bullets and slaps
it hard into his nine
Prays to God to keep his
soul safe;
Then he slowly leaves home
for the last time

EXPRESSIONS

Nightmares

The indignity come as no surprise. Others have never seen those things which have fallen upon my eyes. In the ghetto, they may say, "It's all good." Yet, we still strive for reasoning for this life in the 'hood.

Fresh into school, separated from my people Alone in a realm of thought, my only equal The task at hand - to control my destiny Fully aware that I am the head of the family Insufficient funds - on every-day circumstance But who could of known that night could have been my last.

It was mere luck that I had just finished playing ball. For moments later...another brother would fall. Toking my sisters out to eat; that's what big brothers do. But Herbert was one too, and him I never really knew. You see, I was cool with his family and they were cool with me. However, we hardly crossed paths in his shortened history.

That stormy night, he was on my block, hongiing with his boys. An argument arose, a gun drawn, and this was no toy. I can see his outline stretched out on the cold cement. His father screamed. Awokung in a steamy sweat, was it all just a dream?

My neighborhood, now a ghost town - drastic change from the night before. And the soldiers for unity march on, chanting, "No more!"

Eric Esteves

JAKE's

Cad Downing

His day begins when most people sleep Structured and carefully planned routines To keep the buying the buying and selling Of his product discreet on the Dark landscape of the city's Back alley's and streets Despite the daily hazards of his Employment The most serious being his death He vows with every breath That he will retire from the "business" Once he reaches a certain level of riches Because he's in it for the Benjamins Not the enjoyment

Gone are the days of hustling On the street corners and the risk Of being harassed by competition Or Jake's (Jive Ass Killer Enforcers) He now has workiers following All his orders with the utmost respect His operation now a tigher ship than UPS all aspects handled with strict balances and checks

Despite the fame and ill gotten wealth He's careful to not think he's big-time Trusting no one but himself Remembering the 3 rules that got Him to this plateau of success:

A capitalist migraine, ruthless business Sense, and above all else keeping his Practices secret with stealth Yet even with all this careful planning And the foundation he's laid In order to stay paid His movements have caught the attention Of the JAKE's His every move is now being documented With police surveillance following every Move that he makes The foundation begins to crumble Beneath his feet With the JAKE' waiting to catch Him when he falls Waiting patiently for a key Mistake...

He senses the impending pressure brought On by the officers of law enforcement Although he does not reach level of riches He envisioned he decides his freedom Is more important Moving silently like thief through night Stuffing his pockets full of cash Thinking of all the dirty deeds in his lifetime While desperately fighting the ghosts of his past One by one he fills his gun clip with Hollow tip bullets and slaps it hard into his nine Prays to God to keep his soul safe; Then he slowly leaves home for the last time.

SPORTS

A Model Star: Carlos Peña Doing It Quietly, In His Own Way

Phil Kasiecki

Phil Kasiecki

Too many of today's star athletes are marked by characteristics such as greed, conceit, not caring about the sport they play, and being selfish on the playing field. Many fans have adopted the idea that this is what today's star athlete is all about, with no exceptions.

Peña.



Widely regarded as one of the nation's very best baseball players, and projected by many as one of the top picks in the June free agent draft, Peña has received plenty of fanfare. He has been picked by many preseason publications as a first-team All-American, and a few scouts think he will be the first player taken in June. But talking to the man, one would be hard-pressed to tell if he was struggling to work his way into the lineup or one of the nation's best players.

Very outgoing and engaging, the native of the Dominican Republic has a real love for people, and can make one feel that they are the most important person in the conversation. Another Northeastern star athlete, basketball player Ty Mack, describes Peña as "down to earth. One can tell that he loves people when asking him about things on the field, as he is very quick to mention his teammates. He speaks very highly of his teammates, and likes that this team has a diamond, his charisma shines through in seeing him around others.

The road to success for Peña has had a few bumps. His freshman year was spent at Wright State. He described it as a great school and baseball program, and felt that he grew a lot there from being on his own. But being far away from home was not easy for Peña, who is very much a family man. He needed to be closer to the family. After his freshman season, Peña got a chance to come to Northeastern. He knew Northeastern was

a great school, and the chance to be closer to home was now there. "As soon as the coach [Neil McPhee] gave me an opportunity, I couldn't pass on it."

The spring and summer of 1997 served as Peña's coming-out party. He ranked second on the Huskies in home runs (11) and runs batted in (41), with big hits when

needed. He was the AMERICA EAST Tournament Most Outstanding Player in leading the Huskies to the championship, then launched a tremendous home run to help lead the Huskies past Bethune-Cookman in the NCAA Play-in games. He continued his hot hitting in the NCAA tournament games, but the Huskies were eliminated quickly by losing two straight contests.

Last summer, Peña made waves in the Cape Cod League, a league which has produced many current major league stars (and of which there is a very valuable trading card collection of many past stars who have become stars in the major leagues). Playing against many other top college stars, Peña won the league's MVP in leading Warcham to the league championship. "It was the best summer of my life", Peña says, "it will definitely help me out in the future." When asked about the transition to wooden bats (aluminum bats cannot be used), he says, "Wood bats are awesome!"

This season, the Huskies have many newcomers, but finished the regular season in second place in AMERICA EAST behind Delaware. Peña hit .333 and duplicated his home run and runs batted in (11 and 41, respectively) numbers of last season. He did not see many great pitches during the regular season, as opposing pitcher often pitched around him; his 48 walks is evidence of this. He led the team in stolen bases with 11, and was

see Peña, page 8.

Watching the highlights of basketball games, one often sees plays like deep three-point shots, high flying dunks, great blocked shots, or amazing passes no one thought possible. The "highlight-film" play has almost taken over the game of basketball, to where many players would rather make it on SportsCenter than help their team win the game with a simple fundamental play.

The way the game is supposed to be played is not lost on Ty Mack, even though it probably gets noticed more by fans because of his headband and high socks than his stellar play. Both came from his early days at Odessa College, where Mack spent two seasons playing junior college basketball. The headband, given to him by one of his three older sisters (the 22-year-old Brooklyn native is the youngest of 6 kids), was something new for him at the time. He wore it around campus, and in practice, to where it was just natural for him to wear it during games. On his team at Odessa, he was not the only player wearing the socks high; it was something everyone did, and he continues it to this day.

At Automotive High School in New York, Mack had a banner junior year, leading the Public School League in scoring by dropping in 33.4 points per game. In three years on the school's varsity team, he scored early 2,000 points. Even with these credentials, Mack could only take his scoring to junior college, despite getting recruited by schools such as St. John's, Long Beach State, Texas Tech, Jacksonville, and Texas Christian (a late entry in the recruiting process).

Mack went to Odessa College in Texas, where he averaged 17.4 points and 9 rebounds per contest as a sophomore in 1995-96. Junior college recruiting analyst Phil Henzel rated Mack among the nation's top 60 junior college players that year. In the summer of 1996, Mack signed with Northeastern.

During the 1996-97 season, head coach Rudy Keeling quickly tabbed Mack as a tri-captain because of his work ethic. Game-in and game-out, Mack showed why. At 6'5", 205 pounds, Mack does not have the size of the prototypical post player, but he is never afraid to go and bang on the low post. He spent a lot of time that season playing power forward, and scored often on put-backs, en route to 16.7 points and 7 rebounds per contest, and shooting 50% from the field. That made him one of the most productive junior college transfers in the nation. However, Mack was the most glaring omission from the All-AMERICA EAST teams.

Mack had a productive summer playing in the Staples Summer Pro-Am League in Boston, featuring local college and pro stars, as well as pro players from abroad who played at nearby schools. Entering the 1997-98 season, he was tabbed as a preseason First-Team All-AMERICA EAST selection by many preseason publications, a selection he probably would have lived up to it, if not for a small midseason slump. Nonetheless, he still had a solid season, scoring 17.3 points and hauling down 5.6 rebounds per game, leading the team in both categories. He also ranked eighth in AMERICA EAST in free



Ty Mack at the free throw line; photo credit JD Levine

throw percentage by hitting 77.7% from the charity stripe.

Next year, he feels the team has a lot of potential with the holdovers. While he feels that Delaware will again be the team to beat, with Hofstra, Boston University, Maine, and Drexel being tough as well, he

see Mack, page 8

Award Recipients

African American Institute's
Annual Unity and Awards
Banquet,
Sunday, May 3, 1998

Latino/a Senior Banquet
Saturday, May 30, 1998

Kwanzaa

Wadgner Oge ,Nguzo Saba, Brian
Harvey, Wayne Augustine, Norma V.
Woods, Nicole Cook

Senior Academic Excellence

Nuri Chandler-Smith

Fine Arts Award

Iyeoka Okoawo

Reggie Lewis Athletic Award

Peter Allen, Brutus "Skip" Wright, III

Organization of the Year Award

NASO, CSO, NBSA, HSU

Director's Award

Shanan Jones

Distinguished Scholars Award

Dr. Leonard Brown

Community Service Award

Judge Leslie Harris, Sarah Ann Shaw

Vision Award

Edward O. Owens, Donna Harris-Lewis,

Joseph D. Feaster Jr., Mable Weathers-

Benton Beth Deare, James Alexander,

Rick Johnson

Outstanding Ujima Scholar

Travis Reid

Most Improve Ujima Scholar

Jamel McBean,Ralph Bunche Scholar

Delisile Godeffroy-Taylor

Freshman

Melisa Rivera

Sophomore

Maribel Soto

Middler

Juan Pimentel

Junior

Elvin Freytes

Senior

Stacy Callahan

Terry Mena Award

Ada D. Medina

Enrique Viñas Award

Jonathan Calvo

Women's Leadership Award

Melisa Rivera

Willie Award

William Rodriguez

LaCLA Scholarship Winners

Mona Lisa Faz

Joel Figueros

Norma Gonzalez

Melissa Guillen

Luis A. Hernandez Jr.

Tanya Martinez

Juan Tapia



Unity Awards Banquet: photo credit Eric Esteves

P.E.A.C.E.

Positive Energy Always Creates Elevation

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Award Recipients

African American Institute's Annual Unity and Awards Banquet, Sunday, May 3, 1998

Freshman
Ignacio Oge, Nguzo Saba, Brian
vey, Wayne Augustine, Norma V.
ds, Nicole Cook
Sophomore
Junior Academic Excellence
Chandler-Smith
Junior
Arts Award
Okoawo
Senior
Aggie Lewis Athletic Award
Allen, Brutus "Skip" Wright, III
Organization of the Year Award
FO, CSO, NBSA, HSU
Director's Award
an Jones
Distinguished Scholars Award
Leonard Brown
Community Service Award
e Leslie Harris, Sarah Ann Shaw
on Award
ard O. Owens, Donna Harris-Lewis,
ph D. Feaster Jr., Mable Weathers-
ton Beth Deare, James Alexander,
x Johnson
standing Ujima Scholar
avis Reid
st Improve Ujima Scholar
el McBean, Ralph Bunche Scholar
sile Godeffroy-Taylor

Latino/a Senior Banquet Saturday, May 30, 1998

Freshman
Melisa Rivera
Sophomore
Maribel Soto
Middler
Juan Pimentel
Junior
Elvin Freytes
Senior
Stacy Callahan
Terry Mena Award
Ada D. Medina
Enrique Viñas Award
Jonathan Calvo
Women's Leadership Award
Melisa Rivera
Willie Award
William Rodriguez
LaCLA Scholarship Winners
Mona Lisa Faz
Joel Figueros
Norma Gonzalez
Melissa Guillen
Luis A. Hernandez Jr.
Tanya Martinez
Juan Tapia



Unity Awards Banquet: photo credit Eric Esteves

P.E.A.C.E.

Positive Energy Always Creates Elevation

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Saying Goodbye To "El Patrón"

An Interview with William "Willie" Rodriguez

Maribel Soto

At the 8th Annual Latino/a Senior Banquet on May 30, 1998, William Rodriguez received The Willie Award for his hard work, dedication, and concern for Latino students throughout his 10 years at Northeastern University. He graduated on May 22, 1998, with a Law degree and will leave his position as the Assistant to the President on Latino Affairs this year. William "Willie" Rodriguez will always remain The Latino Voice in the University, at work, and in the community. He has two works in progress that he would like to publish entitled, The Legal Construction of Colonialism in Puerto Rico and Issues of Race in Criminal Justice.

Before Willie left, I was able to meet with him in his office in the Latino/a Student Cultural Center, and ask a few questions about his experience at Northeastern University.

What was the most rewarding experience in your years at Northeastern University?

One of the most gratifying experiences was the building of the Latino/a Student Cultural Center (LSCC). It was a culmination of many struggles and hard work, but more importantly, it is a symbol of what Latinos can accomplish when they come together. The other rewarding experience was watching many of the students who I worked with, graduate over the years.

What was the biggest change you have seen in the Latin American Student Organization (LASO) and Northeastern University since the beginning of your career?

I witnessed LASO grow from a small five-member social/cultural organization to a 70-active member and politically powerful organization. LASO has been the backbone of almost every Latino initiative on campus. Their presence and significance on campus is greater today compared to 10 years ago. Also, LASO has contributed to the growth and awareness that has made Latinos valued members in our society.

As a Latino student and faculty member, what have been the biggest challenges you faced at Northeastern University?

As a student, the biggest challenge was trying to develop a sense of respect and

to be treated as equal. We always want to be appreciated and recognized as a human being. In many of the struggles, I encountered closed-minded people and fought the constant barriers of ethnic

most?

Without question, the students. The nicest experience was seeing the students grow and growing with them. They have been my life blood in this institution and

I will be forever indebted to them. They have also encouraged me when I needed motivation to continue.

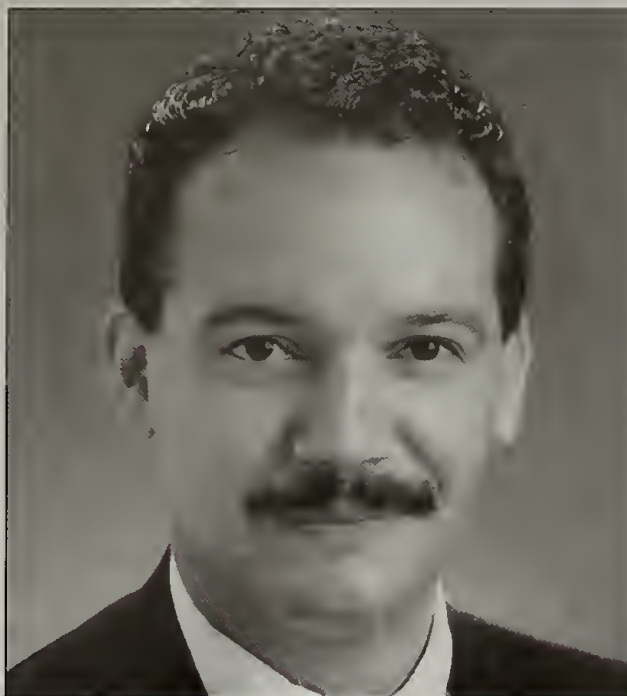
Explain to me a little about your new job and duties.

I will be the Executive Director of the Crime and Justice Foundation. My duties include; affecting public policy in criminal justice, reforming laws, developing new and innovative techniques in the legal system, and other things as well. Most of all, I will help to improve the system. It is a great opportunity for me and my family.

What kind of advice you would give to the students and LASO members?

Stay vigilant and heed warnings and signs of upheaval. Stay on course and remember the goals. But, do it with dignity, faith, and discipline. Protect the LSCC and everything we have worked so hard for. It's important to sustain what you create

and also to create new things. Let it remain and become vibrant as it is part of the legacy that is "Latinoism" at Northeastern University.



"The nicest experience was seeing the students grow and growing with them. They have been my life blood in this institution and I will be forever indebted to them."
-William Rodriguez

photo credit Glenn Pike

discrimination.

However, rather than submit to frustration, we worked towards breaking those barriers. We had to educate others about Latinos. As a faculty member and advisor, one of the biggest challenges was trying to convince Latinos to reach for their goals. more importantly, to believe in themselves and strive for something better without submitting to stress.

What led you to choose your field, Criminal Justice?

I chose law to help others seek redress from systems that create many barriers. I like being an advocate and speaking for civil and human rights. If I can make a small difference, it matters to me. An individual can have an impact if they find the time to do so. We are morally responsible for each other's well-being. I strongly believe I can best serve my community through the law.

What are you going to miss the

The Onyx Informer would like to congratulate William "Willie" Rodriguez on his graduation from law school and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

Sincerely,

The Onyx Staff

Peña, cont. page 5.

second in runs scored with 41. Defensively, he posted a .985 fielding percentage, with just five errors. Peña prides himself on being a complete player and not just an average or home run hitter. He wants to play the outfield as well as first base. While it was not fun being pitched around during the season, he does not let it bother him. "If I walk, I'm on base, and Tim Daley (NU's all-time leader in home runs) can drive me in, and it helps the team. That's what's most important."

If drafted after this season, Peña says he will likely go ahead and play right away, despited a chance he could not pass up. When asked if there was a team he would like to play for, Boston is the first team. "It's close to home, and the organization is trying to win."

Just how much has baseball affected Carlos Peña? When asked about who has influenced him at Northeastern, he quickly cites his baseball teammates. "My teammates are incredible. I can relate to them very well, and have learned a lot from them." His favorite baseball players would surprise no one who knows him: he mentions players such as Ken Griffey, Jr., Alex Rodriguez, Dave Justice, and Mo Vaughn, all of whom play the game as it was meant to be played.

When his baseball days are done, Peña mentions his family as the top priority. A computer engineering major, who also takes business courses on the side, Peña enjoys learning. Without a doubt, his love for people adn ease in dealing with them will make him a success off the field.

Mack, cont. page 5.

also feels that the competitiveness of the conference will continue to grow. Nonetheless, the Huskies can go somewhere, especially if the frontcourt can step up. "You can't win with just guards", says Mack, adding that Harold Miller should be primed for a big year, "Harold will have something to prove after being left off the all-conference team." He also feels that Lin Lattimore and Changa Adams will be the X-factors in the frontcourt.

Although he has not always getting a great deal of notoriety for his play , Mack's efforts led to his recently getting drafted by New Hampshire in the sixth round of the USBL draft. However, it looks like Mack will play abroad, saying that an agent is looking at teams in Holland, Spain, and Italy. He sees himself playing shooting guard and some small forward at the next level because of my versatility, says Mack, who patterns his game after that of Northeastern great Reggie Lewis.

The easy-going Mack is a Criminal Justice major who will graduate in June 1999. Currently, he is on his first co-op job at the Somerville Housing Authority. When he is finished playing basketball, he would like to work at a law firm, or a major business. Owning his own business is not out of the question either. His ultimate goal is to coach at the college level.

That he should desire to be a college coach is not surprising when considering who Mack feels has influenced him most at Northeastern. Mack credits Keeling for preparing him for the next level of play and mentions associate coach and Dean of Student Services, Keith Motley, in addition to Keeling as two people whom he looks up to off the court. "They're two successful Black men making a good living. I'd like to be where they are in their lives."

If the way he plays the game of basketball is any indication, Ty Mack will make it there in the foreseeable future.

Steppin' Out...

Eric Esteves

For the twenty-fourth year, the New England Step Fest made its way to Boston and right on Northeastern's campus. At Matthew's Arena, May 2, 1998, the oldest annual Greek step show in the nation had over 5,000 people in attendance.

The show began with the sororities, then the fraternities followed, with winners announced that afternoon at the conclusion of the day's festivities.

The Iota Gamma chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated - based here at Northeastern - hosted the event. Coincidentally, they took first place in the sorority step show for a well-coordinated routine of traditional stepping and more modern dance choreography. The second-place winners were the lovely ladies of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

On the gentlemen's side, the brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, nudged other quality acts to take first lace in the

fraternity competition, while Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, came in second-place. The brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fra-

"Thriller."

Phi Beta Sigma marched onto the arena floor with torchbearers, adorned in black robes, and several ladies from thier sister organization, Zeta Phi Beta, who performed a steamy, choreographed dance routine with the brothers.

The Greek chapters that were present represented a collective of local students and alumni from all over

Boston, as well as different sororities and fraternities. Vendors on the inside concourse of Matthew's, sold everything from food and clothing, to Greek paraphernalia and Black-oriented books. In addition, much of the proceeds from the event were raised to benefit several charities in the greater Boston metropolitan area.

The New England Greek Step Show is a good time for Black college students in Boston to get out, meet others just like them, and enjoy a great show. The Step Show keeps getting better and attracting a larger crowd. So, are you ready for next year's step show?

Alpha Phi Alpha also opened with a song, but then proceeded to step traditionally -without music. The Alphas then concluded their routine with a re-enactment of the "mummy" scene from Michael Jackson's hit video



Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. photo credit Eric Esteves

Have a Great Summer!!!



photo credit Eric Esteves

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25th Anniversary

The Onyx Informer

Founded in 1972

Northeastern's Newspaper Designed for People of Color

June 1998

extra - extra - extra - extra

Brown vs. Board; Black vs. NU: Dialogue on Race

*Editor's Note: We are publishing this story so that it may be enjoyed in its entirety.

Overview of the Open Dialogue on Race

Linda Betharte

Students came prepared to the "Open Dialogue on Race" with their posters and their grievances.

The Black Student Leadership Council, a recently formed student group, led a number of Black students to the meeting, holding up posters that read: "Brown vs. Board of Education vs. Black vs. NU," "If you're Black, get back, if you're Brown, stick around, If you're White, you're all right," and "Black=Suspicion, Suspicion=Guilt."

The Council was formed in early May to address what they are calling a racist decision made by the Judicial Affairs office against a Black female student, Rosa Spiller. The Council claims she was unfairly penalized because

of her race. "When I came to Boston, Northeastern told me this is a school of diversity. I don't feel that way any longer," said Spiller, during the Dialogue.

Kanasha Herbert, a middler at Northeastern University called the office of Judicial Affairs, "the Office of perceptive Affairs." According to Herbert, she was kicked out of her residence hall because her roommate suspected she was practicing voodoo, a religion commonly associated with witchcraft. Herbert reiterates what one of the administrators involved in the case told her, "You are from the Caribbean. What do you expect people to think of you?"

President Richard Freeland said he was very distressed to hear of the unfair treatment in the Judicial Affairs office and of the other incidences of racism reported by students that attended the meeting.

Other students talked about being slighted by the co-

op department, professors who underestimated their abilities because of the color of their skin, disrespectful treatment by Northeastern police officers, and the lack of financial support for the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute, a center that began in the late 1960's to address issues that Black students faced on Northeastern's campus.

When asked why the African-American Institute has not been renovated to allow access to the disabled, specifically the absence of an elevator, President Freeland said he was unaware of the funds promised by the university to the institute.

Nicole Black, president of the Northeastern Black Student Association, said, "I refuse to love a school that does not love all races." Phil Kasieki, a junior, followed with this to say about diversity. "this is a diverse campus that is not unified, and students feel

cont. on back

The Onyx Informer

Co-Editors Conway Downing
DeeJay Apostole

Staff

Linda Betharte
Eric Esteves
Phil Kasiecki
Melisa Rivera
Maribel Soto

Editor's Notes

Since we printed during finals week and no one could write a follow-up, I decided that I would just make some comments.

I would first like to thank the staff, especially Eric Esteves for coming through.

Cad and I finished the last issue at 6am. It is an interesting feeling walking into the Student Center when the sun is setting and leaving while it is rising. But we did manage to get it out.

Cad went to California before we actually received the copy and I tried to distribute as much as I could, while still leaving myself time to study for finals.

Now, I want everyone to take note: President Freeland promised a report at the Dialogue on Race. As students at this University, we should demand a copy. He is located in 110 Churchill and his phone number is 373-2101. Call him and ask him for a copy. CHALLENGE NU TO IT'S "COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY"!!!

PEACE - DeeJay

Corrections

In the February-March 1998 issue, Nuri Chandler-Smith was credited as Photo Editor instead of Staff.

The unauthored Poem in the June 1998 issue was written by Melisa Rivera.

cont. from front

complacent about it. Students have to be more involved. We need more white students to look at this issue."

Although there were several white faculty and staff members seated at the meeting, few of them spoke. "There are program's but not enough," stated Kate Pendergast of Human Resources, one of the few who spoke, in reply to a student's question about training programs for faculty and police officers. The majority of the students who did attend the meeting were students of color, and some of the white students and faculty members felt that they were being attacked. "this has become a bitch-fest. How do expect things to get done if you don't let people get a say?" questioned Lisa Zschuschen.

Dr. Jack Levine, a professor of Sociology, aid, "White people don't see being white as a problem. Race is not an issue for them. That is why we don't see a lot of white people at these meetings. We must see empathy for people of other groups in order to solve problems." President Freeland ended the discussion with this,

"We proclaim the issue of diversity because we know that we are not yet there and that we want to go there."

The Dialogue, which lasted for three and a half hours, was suggested to president Freeland by the American Council on Education, at the behest of the President of the United States, Mr. Bill Clinton. It was moderated by Mr. David Hall, Dean of the Northeastern University School of Law. Members of the Latin-American Student Organization opened the meeting with five separate skits on stereotypes, entitled the "Unlearn Workshop."

The president has since met with members of the Dialogue's organizing committee and members of the Black Student Association, to discuss the issues raised at the meeting. The BSLC delivered their suggestions for the revamping of the Judicial Affairs process to president Freeland, along with cases of precedence in the Rosa Spiller matter, in which students received lesser penalties for similar and even more erroneous violations.

CONGRADULATIONS

Carlos Peña - 10th pick 1st round draft to the Texas Rangers!!!

Dean David Hall - New Provost!!!

RUMOR:

I heard through the grape vine that the new director of Affirmative Action was hand-picked by President Freeland to keep a low profile...